



August 4, 2003

Federal Communications Commission
c/o Commission Secretary, Marlene H. Dortch
445 12th Street, SW, CY-B402
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: FCC Proceeding Docket No. 03-167

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of over 2,200 members of the Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA), I strongly urge you to approve the SBC application to provide long distance service in the state of Ohio. Based on the overwhelming evidence from other states that have already seen the economic benefits of open long distance competition we do not want to see Ohio fall further behind.

Ohio is second only to California in the number of manufacturing jobs in the state. OMA members increasingly rely on advanced telecommunications technology to remain competitive. The ability of OMA members to continue their contribution to the state and national economy is dependent on many factors in the public policy arena, including telecommunications regulation. We believe the approval of SBC long distance application will not only mean lower costs and more options for OMA members, but continued investment in the modernization of Ohio's telecommunications infrastructure.

In these difficult economic times, the OMA views your decision on this matter as an important element to the creation of jobs and economic opportunity for many Ohio manufacturers. We respectfully urge the FCC to approve SBC's entry into the long distance market in Ohio. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Eric L. Burkland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "E" and "B".

Eric L. Burkland
President